

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 13 (Cancelled).

14. (New) A device for transmitting, exchanging, and/or forwarding data and/or information, in the context of industrial process- and/or automation technology, between a first unit and at least one second unit of a network of multiple units, each having at least one microprocessor associated therewith, wherein:

said first unit and said at least one second unit is one of: a transmitter or sensor, which provide a measured value for determining a physical or chemical parameter;

said network of multiple units belong to an interconnected group, which communicate with one another either directly or indirectly via at least one intermediate unit; and

each of the units of said network of multiple units has at least two physical, communication interfaces,

15. (New) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

said transmitter or sensor is one of: a fill level measuring device, a pressure transmitter, a flow rate sensor, a temperature sensor, or an analytical device.

16. (New) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

each unit of said network of multiple units is one of: a communication unit, a router, a control/evaluation unit, a parametering unit, or an actuator.

17. (New) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

said at least one microprocessor of said first unit contains information concerning the topology of the network, transmits data and/or information to said at least one

second unit; and

preferably the information concerning the topology is transferred with the data and/or information.

18. (New) The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

the information concerning the topology is saved in the microprocessors of at least one portion of the units of said network of multiple units, such that the corresponding unit, on the basis of the addressee to which the data and/or information is to be sent, recognizes along which communication path, or along which alternative communication path, it must transmit or forward the data and/or information.

19. (New) The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

a unit of said network of multiple units determines the topology of the network of multiple units via communication with a neighboring unit or units, stores the acquired information in a memory unit, and thus recognizes along which communication path or along which alternative communication path it preferably transmits, or forwards, the data and/or information.

20. (New) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

a unit of said network of multiple units determines once, sporadically, or cyclically, the capacities of communication paths to the different units of said network of multiple units communicating with it directly or indirectly, and stores the individual communication paths with their different classifications in an assigned memory unit.

21. (New) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

a unit of said network of multiple units forwards the data and/or information to any one unit of said network of multiple units; and

the respective unit of said network of multiple units receiving the data and/or information forwards the data and/or information in the same manner until the data and/or information reaches the unit of said network of multiple units to which the data

and/or information is addressed.

22. (New) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein:
a unit of said network of multiple units only forwards the data and/or information as long as a predetermined number of forwardings is not yet attained.

23. (New) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
said units of said network of multiple units transfer data and/or information according to predetermined priority criteria.

24. (New) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
a unit of said network of multiple units, in the case of a large amount of data and/or information to be transferred, selects multiple communication paths independent of one another, in order to transfer the data and/or information.

25. (New) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
said units of said network of multiple units are assigned a converter, such that said units can communicate with one another via different types of transmission.

26. (New) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
connection lines, or fiber optic cables, or paths of so-called wireless data and/or information transfer, are provided as communication paths.